

From: Heidi Blumenthal
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/7/02 3:23pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

<<microsoft doj comments lthd.doc>>

January 7, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

The Microsoft trial squandered taxpayers' dollars, was a nuisance to consumers, and a serious deterrent to investors in the high-tech industry. It is high time for this trial, and the wasteful spending accompanying it, to be over. Consumers will indeed see competition in the marketplace, rather than the courtroom. And the investors who propel our economy can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Upwards of 60% of Americans thought the federal government should not have broken up Microsoft. If the case is finally over, companies like Microsoft can get back into the business of innovating and creating better products for consumers, and not wasting valuable resources on litigation.

Competition means creating better goods and offering superior services to consumers. With government out of the business of stifling progress and tying the hands of corporations, consumers - rather than bureaucrats and judges - will once again pick the winners and losers on Wall Street. With the reins off the high-tech industry, more entrepreneurs will be encouraged to create new and competitive products and technologies.

I work closely with economic leaders and grassroots taxpayer activists across this nation and I must point out that these free-market activists and leaders are virtually unanimous in their criticism of this trial.

Conservatives do not believe the government should be writing software, or picking the winners and losers in this industry. They understand that this effort to regulate the software industry is bad for the economy and the free market. These tactics are an anathema to business executives who understand free and fair competition is what drives companies to create better products and keeps America in the forefront of the digital economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views, and those of over 60,000 taxpaying activists.

Onward,

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Grover G. Norquist